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TO RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS IMMEDIATE 7314  
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
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RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA PRIORITY 7168  
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN PRIORITY 0017  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/19/2019  
TAGS: PREL MARR MCAP NATO LH ZB RS  
SUBJECT: LITHUANIAN MOD DISCUSSES NATO CONTINGENCY PLANNING  
FOR THE BALTICS

Classified By: Ambassador Ivo Daalder. Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (S/NF) SUMMARY: In a November 17 meeting with Ambassador Daalder, Lithuanian Defense Minister Rasa Jukneviciene underscored the importance of NATO contingency planning to Vilnius and asked about the status of U.S. thinking on the subject. Ambassador Daalder said the issue was still being studied in Washington but no decision had been made. He urged that the discussion be conducted quietly and not in public. END SUMMARY

Contingency Planning

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¶2. (S/NF) Jukneviciene underscored the importance of contingency planning for Lithuania, adding that it was a Lithuanian Presidential priority for discussions with Washington. She said that Lithuania's focus was on attaining an outcome (a plan or, at a minimum, a timeline) and not on the process or "going public" about the issue. She said that Lithuania was aware of the potential to expand EAGLE GUARDIAN, the plan for the defense of Poland, to include defense of the Baltics, adding that Vilnius would be satisfied with that approach.

¶3. (S/NF) Jukneviciene said that she had heard that NATO Secretary General Rasmussen has expressed concerns about the potential impact of such planning on NATO engagement with Russia to former U.S. Secretary of State Albright, who now chairs the Secretary General's Group of Experts advising him on the revision of NATO's Strategic Concept. She said she had also heard that the EU's Javier Solana had expressed the same opinion at a conference in Washington. Jukneviciene contrasted these alleged remarks with the actions of Russia during the Russian-Belorussian ZAPAD 2009 military exercise, arguing that Moscow was clearly not concerned about damaging relations with NATO or Russia's neighbors. She cited the tepid response of some Allies to ZAPAD 2009 as an example of the "Russian influence" on Alliance security issues.

Daalder Responds

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¶4. (S/NF) Daalder responded by noting strong U.S. commitment to NATO Article 5 commitments, as demonstrated by its decision on Missile Defense, while noting that Washington was still studying the issue of contingency planning. He also

urged Lithuania not to engage in a public debate on contingency planning; something which he said would only prove harmful to the Lithuanian cause. He stressed that this issue should be discussed confidentially within NATO.

DAALDER